GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2678
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Shifting of Lions
Kamal Nath Shri ;Pal Shri Jagdambika;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shifting of lions from Gir National Park in Gujarat to Palpur-Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is pending since long;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the orders of the Supreme Court in April, 2013 to shift lions from Gir National Park in Gujarat to man made habitat in Shivpuri District of Madhya Pradesh have not been implemented so far; and
(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which lions from Gir National Park in Gujarat are likely to be shifted to Palpur-Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) The matter of shifting of a few Asiatic lions from Gir National Park area to Palpur-Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is a long term action starting from preparation of the translocation area in Madhya Pradesh for receiving the lions; selection of animals in Gujarat for translocation; and process for translocation including arrangements for soft release. The whole programme encompasses action for over 25 years. In the meanwhile, in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 15th April 2013 in I.A. No. 100 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 337/1995, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has constituted an Expert Committee for planning and implementation of translocation of Asiatic lions from Gir, Gujarat to Kuno, Madhya Pradesh. Meetings of the Expert Committee have been held to crystallize the Action Plan and road map for translocation of Lions, in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Implementation of the Action Plan for translocation of Lions includes certain studies (both ecological and social). As a preliminary step towards preparation of area for the translocation, the area of Kuno Palpur Sanctuary is required to be enlarged. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has taken necessary steps in this regard.

No specific time frame can be prescribed for transfer of Lions.

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